

Natural Hazards and Perceived Risks – using nationalatlas.gov

Objectives:

- Students will be able to use spatial data in the form of maps to analyze what United States Regions are at greater risk for a variety of natural hazards. (Labeling a map of U.S. regions before beginning is helpful).
- Students will explore the relationship between population numbers and perceptions of natural hazards.
- Students will use a web-based source to practice GIS skills and analysis of maps.

Grades: 9-12

Standards: Human- Environment Interaction

Time Allotment: 90 minute block

Materials Needed:

Natural Hazards Worksheet

Map of United States with regions labeled

Computer Access: www.nationalatlas.gov

Procedure:

Use the following website to locate maps pertaining to natural hazards: www.nationalatlas.gov

Once students have opened the website, click on the **Map Maker Tab**, locate the **Climate, Geology & People Tabs** fill out the attached worksheet. Check off the natural hazards that occur in each region and their risk level. Answer the questions when finished.

National Atlas.gov
Physical Geography Natural Hazards – United States

Use the following website to locate maps pertaining to natural hazards: www.nationalatlas.gov

Once you have opened the website, click on the **Map Maker Tab**, locate the **Climate, Geology & People Tabs** fill out the chart below. Check off the natural hazards that occur in each region and their risk level.

People Tab	North East	South	Mid-West	Rocky Mountain	Pacific West
Overall Population Density (2000) for region- write High, Medium or Low					

Hazards/ Regions															
Risk	Hi	Med	Lo	Hi	Med	Lo	Hi	Med	Lo	Hi	Med	Lo	Hi	Med	Lo
Climate Tab															
Avalanche															
Drought															
Flooding															
Hail															
Hurricane															
Tornado															
Wildfire															
Geology Tab															
Earthquakes															
Landslides															
Volcano															
Sub-Totals per region- add up each column High= 3 points Medium = 2 Low = 1															
Total Points															
Rank regions in order of most (1) hazardous to least (5)															

1. Which region do you think is the safest to live and why?

2. What region appears to be most susceptible to natural hazards?

3. Speculate why do people continue to live in areas that have a high probability of natural hazards occurring?